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SOURCE Ta-Kung Pao, No 16218, 1948. (Information requested.)

FOREIGN IMPORTS COMPETE WITH TAIWAN PRODUCTS

Operations at the copper mines ceased last month due to lack of certain chemicals which were purchased from Great Britain, but have not yet arrived. Although 300 tons of electrolytic copper are stockpiled at the mines without a market, hinterland regions of China are still purchasing copper from the US. Salaries and wages are being paid by loans.

Through the strenuous efforts of its employees, an aluminum company in Taipo (Kao-hsiung) produced more than 150 tons of aluminum. This was awaiting a market until very recently when the US bought the product. In the meantime Shang-hai is still purchasing aluminum from abroad under the old foreign exchange system.

A fertilizer company was able to produce 10,000 metric tons of nitrates and 20,000 metric tons of phosphate this year. However, the marketing of these products poses a problem since China is still purchasing fertilizer from the US despite the fact that the price is considerably lower for the Taiwan product. The only phosphorus mine on the Chinese mainland, at Hai-chou, is now in Communist hands. Therefore, phosphorus is being imported to China from Viet Nam.

Most of the factories which have moved from the mainland to Taiwan are still idle because electric power on the island cannot meet the demand.

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